Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor comprising a separator impregnated with an electrolytic solution, an anode foil and a cathode foil, a flat capacitor element that has external lead-out terminals connected respectively to said anode foil and cathode foil, and a flexible casing that houses the capacitor element and is hermetically sealed, said method comprising the steps of encasing the capacitor element in the flexible casing and applying aging treatment before hermetically sealing the casing, and hermetically sealing the flexible casing.

2. (Original) A method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor comprising a separator impregnated with an electrolytic solution, an anode foil and a cathode foil, a flat capacitor element that has external lead-out terminals connected respectively to said anode foil and cathode foil, and a flexible casing that houses the capacitor element and is hermetically sealed, said method comprises the steps of encasing the capacitor element in a predetermined casing and applying aging treatment under sealed condition, purging a gas that has been generated within, and hermetically sealing the flexible casing.

3. (Original) A method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor comprising a separator impregnated with an electrolytic solution, an anode foil and a cathode foil, a flat capacitor element that has external lead-out terminals connected respectively to said anode foil and cathode foil and a flexible casing that houses the capacitor element and is hermetically sealed, said method comprises the steps of aging the capacitor element while impregnating with the electrolytic solution, and hermetically sealing the flexible casing.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, further comprising the step of carrying out the aging treatment again after the step of hermetically sealing the flexible casing.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, further comprising a step of carrying out impregnation with the electrolytic solution before encasing said capacitor element in the flexible casing, or carrying out impregnation with the electrolytic solution within the flexible casing after encasing the capacitor element in the flexible casing.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, further comprising the step of once again impregnating the capacitor element, that has been subjected to the aging treatment, with the electrolytic solution.

7. (Original) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 6, wherein electrolytic solutions of different compositions are used in the first and the second impregnation steps.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein the flexible casing is hermetically sealed under the condition of reduced pressure below 1 atm. in order to reduce voids in the flexible casing, after encasing said capacitor element in the flexible casing.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein the aging treatment is carried out at least once at an ambient temperature in a range from 10 to 125°C.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein the aging treatment is carried out under the condition of reduced pressure.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein the aging treatment is carried out while applying a voltage stepwise.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein the aging treatment is carried out at a constant voltage.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein said flat capacitor element has a stacked structure formed by laminating the anode foil and the cathode foil of a predetermined size alternately via separators, or winding a laminate of long anode and cathode foils laminated one on another with the resultant roll being flattened.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, further comprising a step of carrying out the aging treatment after encasing the capacitor element, that has been encased in the flexible casing, in an outer casing having a higher strength.

15. (Original) A flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor comprising a separator impregnated with an electrolytic solution, an anode foil and a cathode foil, a flat capacitor element that has external lead-out terminals connected respectively to the anode foil and the cathode foil, and a flexible casing that houses the capacitor element and is hermetically sealed, wherein the electrolytic capacitor is subjected to an aging treatment before encasing said capacitor element in the flexible casing and hermetically sealing the flexible casing.

16. (Original) A flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor comprising a separator impregnated with an electrolytic solution, an anode foil and a cathode foil, a flat capacitor element that has external lead-out terminals connected respectively to the anode foil and the cathode foil, and a flexible casing that houses the capacitor element and is hermetically sealed, wherein the electrolytic capacitor is encased in a predetermined casing, subjected to an aging treatment under

sealed condition, with a gas generated during the treatment being discharged to the outside, the flexible casing then being hermetically sealed.

17. (Original) A flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor comprising a separator impregnated with an electrolytic solution, an anode foil and a cathode foil, a flat capacitor element that has external lead-out terminals connected respectively to the anode foil and the cathode foil and a flexible casing that houses the capacitor element and is hermetically sealed, wherein the electrolytic capacitor is subjected to an aging treatment while being impregnated with the electrolytic solution, and is then encased in the flexible casing.

18. (Previously Presented) The flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 15, wherein the electrolytic solution of the flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor contains at least one kind of a nitro compound.

19. (Previously Presented) The flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 15, wherein the flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor is an aluminum electrolytic capacitor for use at a mid- to high-voltage of 100 V or higher, or an aluminum electrolytic capacitor for a strobe flash.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, further comprising the step of carrying out the aging treatment again after the step of hermetically sealing the flexible casing.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, further comprising the step of carrying out the aging treatment again after the step of hermetically sealing the flexible casing.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, further comprising a step of carrying out impregnation with the electrolytic solution before encasing said capacitor element in the flexible casing, or carrying out impregnation with the electrolytic solution within the flexible casing after encasing the capacitor element in the flexible casing.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, further comprising a step of carrying out impregnation with the electrolytic solution before encasing said capacitor element in the flexible casing, or carrying out impregnation with the electrolytic solution within the flexible casing after encasing the capacitor element in the flexible casing.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, further comprising the step of once again impregnating the capacitor element, that has been subjected to the aging treatment, with the electrolytic solution.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, further comprising the step of once again impregnating the capacitor element, that has been subjected to the aging treatment, with the electrolytic solution.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, wherein the aging treatment is carried out at least once at an ambient temperature in a range from 10 to 125°C.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, wherein the aging treatment is carried out at least once at an ambient temperature in a range from 10 to 125°C.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, wherein the aging treatment is carried out under the condition of reduced pressure.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, wherein the aging treatment is carried out under the condition of reduced pressure.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, wherein the aging treatment is carried out while applying a voltage stepwise.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, wherein the aging treatment is carried out while applying a voltage stepwise.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, wherein the aging treatment is carried out at a constant voltage.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, wherein the aging treatment is carried out at a constant voltage.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, wherein said flat capacitor element has a stacked structure formed by laminating the anode foil and the cathode foil of a predetermined size alternately via separators, or winding a laminate of long anode and cathode foils laminated one on another with the resultant roll being flattened.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, wherein said flat capacitor element has a stacked structure formed by laminating the anode foil and the cathode foil of a predetermined size alternately via separators, or winding a laminate of long anode and cathode foils laminated one on another with the resultant roll being flattened.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, further comprising a step of carrying out the aging treatment after encasing the capacitor element, that has been encased in the flexible casing, in an outer casing having a higher strength.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, further comprising a step of carrying out the aging treatment after encasing the capacitor element, that has been encased in the flexible casing, in an outer casing having a higher strength.

38. (Previously Presented) The flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 16, wherein the electrolytic solution of the flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor contains at least one kind of a nitro compound.

39. (Previously Presented) The flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 17, wherein the electrolytic solution of the flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor contains at least one kind of a nitro compound.

40. (Previously Presented) The flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 16, wherein the flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor is an aluminum electrolytic capacitor for use at a mid- to high-voltage of 100 V or higher, or an aluminum electrolytic capacitor for a strobe flash.

41. (Previously Presented) The flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 17, wherein the flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor is an aluminum electrolytic capacitor for use at a mid- to high-voltage of 100 V or higher, or an aluminum electrolytic capacitor for a strobe flash.

42. (New) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, wherein the flexible casing is hermetically sealed under the condition of reduced pressure below 1 atm. in order to reduce voids in the flexible casing, after encasing said capacitor element in the flexible casing.

43. (New) The method of manufacturing a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, wherein the flexible casing is hermetically sealed under the condition of reduced pressure below 1 atm. in order to reduce voids in the flexible casing, after encasing said capacitor element in the flexible casing.